[Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

that question off-hand. The member further asks whether the Government would take disciplinary action against the officer concerned for using the nomenclature "Romo-Syrians" while the Government had previously agreed to adopt another nomenclature. I think that that does not arise as a supplementary question.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is it really a supplementary question?

**PRESIDENT**: It is not a supplementary question. It is entirely a new question. The information sought by the interpellation was not in regard to the difficult problem of classification of communities.

**MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): വിവരം അറിയാനാണു ചോദ്യം ചോദിക്കുന്നതു് 'റോമൻകത്തോലിക്കു് സിറിയൻ''സിന്റെ സംഖ്യ ഉത്തരത്തിലില്ല. അതുകൂടി അറിയുന്നതിനാണു ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതു്.

**MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR** (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If the member had put a suitable supplementary question, I would have answered him. There is only one person who has been classified as 'Romo-Syrian'. If the member had asked me about that particular person or had simply consulted the *Civil List*, he could have had the information that he wants.

*Appointment of Mr. A. Venkata Rao as Head Sirkar Vakil.*

116. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when Mr. A. Venkata Rao has been appointed Head Sirkar Vakil;

(*b*) whether they have declared in the Legislative Council anybody senior to Mr. A. Venkata Rao, and, if so, who they are;

(*c*) whether Mr. A. Venkata Rao is the seniormost vakil in the bar; and

(*d*) whether the order appointing Mr. A. Venkata Rao as Head Sirkar Vakil does show —

(i) the reasons why his seniors were superseded, or

(ii) that the claims of his seniors were at least considered by the Government?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Sanction for the appointment of Mr. A. Venkata Rao as Ag. Head Sirkar Vakil was communicated in G. O. D. Dis. No. 1850 of 27/Judl., dated the 13th July, 1927.

(*b*) Yes; Mr. R. Gopala Menon, Sirkar Vakil, Parur, was declared to be senior to Mr. A. Venkata Rao as District Court Sirkar Vakil.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) (i) and (ii) The answer is in the negative. The member is also referred to the answer given to interpellation No. 111 by Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): The Government have stated in the answer that the claims of his seniors were not considered at the time he was appointed. May I know how the Government were enabled to make the choice without considering the claims of his seniors and others?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): To what is it a supplementary question?

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): To part (*d*) of the question.

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is that it is a selection post and therefore the question of seniority does not really arise.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the claims of seniors were at least considered?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer says that it is in the negative.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know without considering the claims of seniors how was the Government enabled to choose this particular individual?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because the Government have already stated that it is an appointment on which no one has a special claim.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): I do not say that anybody has a special claim, but I wish to know how the Government were enabled to make this particular choice.

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): My answer to that question is that nobody has any claim.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the group of persons from whom the Head Sirkar Vakil is generally recruited?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Head Sirkar Vakil could be selected from the Excise Department?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If a very suitable lawyer is found in that department, it could be done.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Having now made the appointment, will the Government be pleased to state the groups of persons from whom the choice was made?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Various law officers in the State, various lawyers practising in the State and others.

**MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the claims and efficiency of all the vakils practicising in the High Court and the District Judges were considered?

**MR. K. GEORGE** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It must be presumed that it has been done.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Why should I presume? I wish to know whether the comparative merits of those persons were considered in making the appointment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): By whom?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): By the Government. May I know whether the person appointed was found the most suitable man?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is an inference which the member is free to make.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is there anything on record to show that the groups of persons from whom this choice was made that they were inferior according to the test which the Government applied in the choice?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government cannot discuss the claims and merits of individuals.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not want to discuss the matter, but I wish to know whether their comparative merits were considered.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have answered that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What the answer says is that the answer is in the negative. I am not confining myself to the claims of seniority. I wish to know on what basis the selection was made.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The suitability for the post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): As this is a sort of convenient answering of questions about appointments, will the Government hereafter lay down some wide principles which should be applied in selecting men to high posts?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a very general question and a statement cannot be made at once.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is not the answer given by the member very unsatisfactory?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not consider so. The member cannot expect me to subscribe to that opinion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly